WARRIORS PASSAGE
A HISTORIC TRAIL

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST
TELlico PLAINS, TENNESSEE

in cooperation with
Great Smoky Mountain Council, B. S. A.
National Forest Service
Fort Loudoun Association

Read About The Trail In The January 1967 Issue Of "Boys Life"

Warriors Passage Committee
1023 Melbourne Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee 37917
You can have an adventure while on Warriors Passage! This is the trail that British Soldiers and Cherokee Indians followed more than two hundred years ago. A group of Knoxville Scouts have reopened the trail for your use. It was used by the soldiers who built Fort Loudoun in 1756 and by the Cherokee as they traveled between their villages in western South Carolina and in eastern Tennessee.

Long ago the trail extended from Charleston, South Carolina, to the Cherokee towns along the Little Tennessee River. Today the only part which can be traced lies in the mountains between Unaka, North Carolina, and Tellico Plains, Tennessee. About half of this portion has been cleared and marked for hikers. The trail is shown on the map.

Warriors Passage is much more than a hike and camp. You will have to use your Scouting Skills and demonstrate that you know a little of the Fort Loudoun and Warriors Passage story. As you are hiking you may have the opportunity to observe wildlife – turkey, bear, deer, bear and many others. The trial is within a national forest and you will see how a great nation is able to raise and harvest thousands of acres of trees. The National Forest Service will no longer cut timber on or near this trail.

If you give your imagination a chance you will almost hear the shouts and commands as Captain Demere led the brave red-coated soldiers of the King down this trail. Think what it must have been like to be in a large military unit entering the Cherokee nation for the first time! Can you hear the squeaks of the leather saddles, or the metal horse-shoes against the rocks, or maybe the soldiers themselves? What a sight it must have been as this long single file of men, horses and equipment made their way along the same trail you are to hike?

While at Twin Springs Camp, the ancient campsite on the trail, you will have the opportunity to experience a little of Indian life as well as that of the soldier. Maybe you will be lucky and will be one of the boys who participates in an Indian campfire. You would be in simple costume and could feel the breeze on your back and the brush against your legs just like the Indian. As the campfire casts its dancing shadows across the trees, and you hear the leader’s story, you will find it easy to place yourself in the Indian’s moccasins and the soldier’s boots.

- Background -

Like most early trails, Warriors Passage was probably first created by wild animals as they sought the best water holes and the deepest grass. The heavy, awkward buffalo, especially, would find the easiest way to go around or over a hill or mountain. Gradually the animal trails become wider and clearer so that when Indians needed to cross the same country it was only natural for them to follow the animal paths. By the time the white man came, many of these trails had been in use for centuries.

For a hundred years after the Europeans first came to live along the Atlantic coast, the few hardy adventurers who penetrated the back country to the west returned with tales of the great mountains that shut off further travel and trade. These great mountains formed a natural defense for the “Overhill” Cherokees, the westernmost villages of the Cherokee nation. About the year 1700, South Carolina traders learned from the Indians that there was a trail westward over the southern Allegheny Mountains by which the ten or twelve Overhill towns might be reached.

A few adventurers set out over the ancient path to seek quick fortune from precious metals they hoped the Indians would show them and to see the Indian towns and the great forest which covered most of the land. In 1753, A. P. Young, a Philadelphia merchant, and some others, made a trip to the Overhill towns. They brought with them a small amount of trade goods and a few guns. They were shown the way over the mountains to the Overhill villages. The trip was successful, and Young returned to Philadelphia with a large amount of gold and silver, which he sold for a profit.

The first map of the trail, which we now call Warriors Passage, was drawn by a surveyor named George Hunter in 1730. It was also the first to show the locations of the Cherokee towns. In the same year a British adventurer, Sir Alexander Cuming visited the Cherokee and persuaded them to swear loyalty to King George, the “great king over the water.” In the past the trail was known as Northwest Passage, Traders Path, Wauchope Trail, Indian Trail and Soldiers Trail.

- Fort Loudoun -

About 1750 it was decided that the British should build a fort across the mountains in the Cherokee country to strengthen the alliance between the two nations and to combat French influence among the Indians. (What language would you speak today had the British not won the French and Indian War?) After much talk, the fort was built in 1756-57 on the south bank of the Little Tennessee River, only five miles downstream from the Overhill Capital of Chota and within a few hundred yards of the village of Tuskegee. More than two hundred regular soldiers and militia marched through the mountains on Warriors Passage to build and garrison the fort, and there was much use of Warriors Passage as traders brought supplies to the fort and as messengers carried letters to and from the outpost.

A notable feat of transportation of artillery (cannon) was performed by a trader named John Elliott during the building of the fort. Captain Raymond Demere, British commander of the Fort Loudoun expedition, wrote to the royal governor of South Carolina that the twelve cast iron cannon, weighing about 300 pounds each, could never be brought over the path. John Elliott’s idea was to balance one gun on one horse and change horses every few miles. For this service he asked forty pounds (about $200) for each gun. Even though he could make only five or six miles a day and in spite of the loss of several horses, Elliott reached the fort with the cannon late in November, 1756. As you hike the trail today, you will wonder how a horse carrying a 300-pound cannon could ever have made the trip.

Soldiers, traders and Indians were not the only ones to use Warriors Passage. Many of the men who came to Fort Loudoun brought their wives and children with them. At least two ministers, Rev. John Martin and Rev. William Richardson, visited the Cherokee nation and the fort. On January 1, 1759, Mr. Richardson “baptized a child for one of the soldiers,” perhaps the first white child to be born in Tennessee.

If they had escaped, the Fort Loudoun garrison would have used Warriors Passage to return to South Carolina after surrendering the fort in the summer of 1760. Many of the soldiers were victims in the Indian massacre after the surrender. Someday it may be possible to mark the trail from Fort Loudoun and connect it with the portion now open, until that time, you probably should drive from Fort Loudoun to Madisonville and from there to Tellico Plains, rather
than trying to follow the secondary roads. From Tellico Plains, it is a drive of only five miles to the massacre site at the point where Cane Creek flows into the Tellico River.

Lost and Found

In 1797, Benjamin Hawkins, who had been a United States Senator from North Carolina and was Superintendent of Southern Indian Tribes by appointment of President George Washington, came into the Tennessee country along the trail. With him were surveyors who were to mark the boundary between the Cherokee nation and the new state of Tennessee. In his journal Hawkins describes his descent from Unicoi Ridge (Wauchees) to the Cherokee town of Tellico, providing landmark clues and distances by which the once-important trail has been again opened.

Because the trail was so steep at the mountain-top, it was abandoned about 1830 in favor of a route which would allow travel by wagon. As the years passed, the trail was used less and less even for foot travel and by 1950, it was almost entirely lost.

Warriors Passage is open today because several men were willing to combine their knowledge and ability. The historians had the research information and the scouers had many willing scouts. Although the idea of clearing the trail was conceived in 1958, work did not begin until 1963, when a meeting was held with representatives of the Fort Loudoun Association, the Smoky Mountain Council, B.S.A., the East Tennessee Historical Society, and the National Forest Service. Each group gave encouragement and support.

For the better part of three years, 1963-66, the leaders and boys of Troop 49, Troop 252, and Post 49 (Knoxville) worked on that portion of the trail from Wauchees to Furnace Road (Lyons Creek Road). (Post 300 has replaced Troop 252 in maintaining the trail.) The three scouting units maintained regular programs the entire time. Many days were spent in looking for the missing links that would connect the known parts of the trail. There were miles of underbrush, fallen trees, and weeds to clear as well as backbreaking digging. Often a cleared section would grow more brush while another new section was being cleaned. There was also the need to be on alert for rattlers, copperheads, and yellow jackets. The Scouts have prized trophies from their encounters. Several times forestry operations destroyed sections of the trail which had to be rebuilt. The boys donated the signs and posts and even carried them in. They had no power tools to help. They maintained high morale and donated hundreds of hours of their young muscle power. Many have received the "Historic Trail Award" and those who spent twenty or more hours of labor on the trail received the special "I Was First Award". All of the Scouts who helped open Warriors Passage have a richly deserved feeling of accomplishment.

There are so many to thank — Mr. Paul Brown and Mr. Elsworth Brown, both of Chattanooga, for research material and field trips; Judge Sue K. Hicks, Madisonville, and Mr. Paul Kelley, Knoxville, for historical material; Mr. Len Harris, Knoxville, for assistance with the maps; Mr. James Wright and Mr. Harold Huffaker, both of Knoxville, for leadership with the Scouts and their labor; the different associations and organizations for research material; the National Forest Service for their cooperation; and, above all, that wonderful group of Boy Scouts from units 49, 252 and 300 who for years, and under the most difficult circumstances, demonstrated that they understood the true meaning of Scouting.

Yes, you are going to have a wonderful adventure. You are going to camp and hike on the same ground used by brave men of yesterday. You will join the company of Sir Alexander Cuming, Captain Raymond Demere, Captain John Stewart, Senator Benjamin Hawkins and Attakullakulla.

Good luck. Prove yourself a man by being a real Scout.

Requirements

Requirements for earning the Warriors Passage Award are printed on another page. There are twenty-one requirements, many of which deal with Scouting Skills.

The seven-colored patch award is pictured on the front of this brochure. The wording on the bottom of the patch is Cherokee and means, "Brave Man, Where He Comes".

For those who have earned the Appalachian Trail Award and would like to continue wearing that award, there is a Warriors Passage segment patch award that can be sewn directly under the AT Award.

The Warriors Passage Committee has a leaflet known as "Leaders WP Instructions". These instructions will be revised regularly and are a must for the hike leader. LEADERS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO SECURE MATERIAL IN ADVANCE OF HIKE SO THAT THE HIKERS WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH REQUIREMENTS.

There are no fees for camping or hiking on Warriors Passage. If you should use a National Forest Service camp there would be a nominal NFS fee.

A packet will be sent to each leader. This will include descriptive literature and requirements for each hiker (please specify number); the Leaders WP Instructions; instructions for ordering awards; and National Forestry Service material. There will be a charge of $0.40 for each hiker's requirement sheet and descriptive literature. Please include payment with your request. Make checks payable to "Warriors Passage."

Upon completion of the hike the leader is to collect, sign and forward the completed requirement sheets, along with award requests, to the Warriors Passage Committee.

The large patch is $0.50 and the segment patch is $0.25.

All questions regarding the trail and the award should be addressed to: WARRIORS PASSAGE COMMITTEE
1023 MELBOURNE AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37917

The adult leader should become familiar with additional information which may be found in the Leaders WP Instructions or in the books listed below.

Kelley, Paul, Historic Fort Loudoun, 1961 (May be ordered from Fort Loudoun Ass'n, Vonore, Tenn. 75c.)
Williams, Samuel Cole, Dawn of Tennessee Valley and Tennessee History, Johnson City, 1939.
Recommended route of travel from Tellico Plains to Fort Loudoun is Hwy 68 to Madisonville, then Hwy 411 towards Maryville. Look for road signs.

**Hiking Distances**

(Distances are from Bald River Falls)
- To forest road: 4.3 miles
- To Basin Gap: 6 miles
- To Twin Springs: 7 miles
- To Old Furnace Road: 12 miles
- To end of hike: 15 miles

Trail is marked by red signs and white paint marks on trees.

**WARNING:** Roads indicated as forest roads are not suitable for car travel. They were built for tractors and are very rough, narrow, and steep. A tow charge and expensive repairs could result from an attempt to drive over them!
WARiORS PASSAGE REQUIREMENTS
(Please Print Neatly)

Your Name
Street & Number
City & State Zip

Troop, Post, etc. & No.
Unit Sponsor Name
B.S.A. Council

Before starting the Warriors Passage adventure be certain to read the trail material and study the map. Your leader's material will contain information you will need—ask him.

1. Hikers under age seventeen (17) must be accompanied by an adult who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age. (5-points)

2. Prior to hiking Warriors Passage, make at least one other hike, carrying a pack and spending the night on the trail; OR, be at least 2nd Class, having passed the 1st Class backpacking requirement and have proved to your leader that you have the skill, strength, and self-discipline to complete Warriors Passage. (5-points)

3. Hike the Bald River Falls Trail to the dirt forestry road, turn right onto this dirt road and cross Bald River on the bridge, stay on this road and hike to the Waucheesi firetower road at Basin Gap, then turn left and hike to Twin Springs trail camp. Camp at least one night at Twin Springs. Then hike back in the direction of Basin Gap for a short distance and turn left on the trail, Warriors Passage. Hike down the mountain, through the seven crossings and across Wildcat Creek to Old Furnace Road (dirt forestry road which is on Warriors Passage—now named Lyons Creek Road) and then down to the ending at the paved road near Tellico Plains. Trail distance is 15 miles. yes___ no___ (5-points)

4. Do one of the following: (5-points)
   A. Read the story of Fort Loudon. ________________
   B. Visit Fort Loudon and take the tour. ________________
   C. Listen to the story of Fort Loudon told by an adult who is prepared by study of suitable material.
   (Note: Suggested reading is Historic Fort Loudon by Paul Kelley. This 42-page booklet may be ordered from the Fort Loudon Ass'n., Vonore, Tennessee for 75c. yes___ no___

5. Did your Scoutmaster or leader complete his requirements and fulfill his instructions prior to, and during, the hike? yes___ no___ (10-points)

6. Did your Troop have a complete first aid kit with an effective snake bite kit? There should be several snake bite kits among the hikers. yes___ no___ (5-points)

7. Start and finish the hike in uniform. This means shirt tails in, kerchiefs on, uniform shirt and pants. During hot weather a Tee shirt may be substituted for the Scout shirt and kerchief may be left off. No crazy hats! A Scout Looks Like A Scout! yes___ no___ (10-points)
8. Prepare and eat corn at least one meal while camped on the trail (mush, grits, fried grits, hominy, parched corn, etc.) yes ___ no ___ (1-point)

9. Keep a list of at least eight trees seen on the trail. This list may be kept on the border of this page. (2-points)

10. Do one of the following: (2-points)
   A. Take part in an Indian Campfire at Twin Springs. yes ___ no ___
   B. Take part in a Troop Campfire at Twin Springs. yes ___ no ___

11. What is the distance in feet from the big spring to the giant poplar tree? Use length of step method. _____ feet (1-point)

12. Use forestry trash cans at Twin Springs. It would be best to burn all that will burn. No trash on trail! yes no (10-points)

13. On the morning after the camp take part in your troop's Warriors Passage Military Service. (2-points) yes ___ no ___

14. Leave stacked firewood at Twin Springs. Use wood that is down and never cut anything that is green. yes ___ no ___ (2-points)

15. What is the primary purpose of the National Forest Service? Answer in Leader's WP Instructions. (1-point)

16. Who was Attakullakulla? Answer in Historic Fort Loudoun or found on Fort Loudoun tour. (1-point)

17. Give the name and rank of the first commander of Fort Loudoun? Answer in Historic Fort Loudoun or found on Fort Loudoun tour. __________________________ (1-point)

18. In what year was Fort Loudoun started? Answer found in WP trail material or found on Fort Loudoun tour. __________________________ (1-point)

19. How many years did it take the Boy Scouts to locate, clear, and mark the section of trail now known as Warriors Passage? Answer found in WP trail material. _________ years (1-point)

20. Did your troop, or unit, hike together as a group with the leader at all times? Yes ___ No ___ (5-points)

21. Did you at all times conduct yourself in such a manner as to bring pride and honor to your unit and the Boy Scouts of America? Yes ___ No ___ (25-points)

TOTAL POINTS EARNED

MUST SCORE AT LEAST 96 POINTS OUT OF 100 TO QUALIFY FOR AWARD

I have reviewed this requirement card and believe this Scout has earned enough points to receive the Warriors Passage Award.*

_____________________________  ______________________________
Signature of Scout               Signature of Unit Leader

*Return only the requirement cards that have passed. Include payment with order sheet for awards. Make checks payable to "Warriors Passage". Warriors Passage Committee, 1023 Melbourne Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee 37917
Troop 255
Mr. V.L. Brown

Dear Mr. Brown

We who work with the Warriors Passage Hike/Camp were happy to learn that the opportunity had been made for the boys of 255 to participate. It must have been most difficult to make all the arrangements for such a trip. I believe yours is only the second unit from upper East Tennessee to have earned the honor. Your insignia has been mailed under other cover.

On the weekend of your hike our district camporee was under way on a ridgetop beside a lake. I think I must know what you experienced from the wind, rain, and the drop in temperature! The location of Twin Springs in the gap does help from the wind but Waucheese can be mean at times such as yours. On May 9 our troop was at Twin Springs and did our spring clean-up job. The hunters had left much and their lost dogs had scattered it. If you were to go back now you would find a much nicer camp. The cans you saw were from the hunters and not from the Scouts. The place is checked each night by the NFS and they passed the word along.

Keep up your good work in Scouting, you are appreciated.

Scoutingly yours,

Harold Huffaker
for the Warriors Passage Committee